

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Ringwood Manor

AND/OR COMMON

Ringwood Manor State Park

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 3 miles east of Hewitt, off New Jersey Route 23

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ringwood Borough  
~~Hewitt~~

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

 VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Passaic

CODE

31

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection

STREET &amp; NUMBER

State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Passaic County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Paterson

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Building Surveys

DATE

1934, 1937

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress Annex/Division of Prints and Photos

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first settlement at Ringwood dates from 1740, when the Ogden family of Newark established the "Ringwood Company," and erected a forge, furnace and other structures associated with iron production on the Ringwood Creek at the present site of Ringwood Manor. In 1764, these works were described thus in the New York Mercury of March 5, 1764: "To be sold, a new well-built furnace, good iron mines near the same, two forges, one with 3, and the other with 2 fires; a saw mill, several dwelling-houses and coal houses, and several tracts of land adjoining; ..." This property was purchased, sight unseen, by Peter Hasenclever, who discovered the works in a much dilapidated condition. Hasenclever's furnace at Ringwood was situated southeast of the house near the present site of the millpond dam. The casting bed and cooling ponds for the furnace have been preserved as the three ornamental ponds in front of the manor house (#6); (numbers refer to attached sketch map). The stone end of the dairy, where a new wooden water wheel has been placed, is one of the two wheel pits where the water wheel revolved, supplying the blast for the furnace. The old raceway continues to flow through this pit to the ponds. The other pit is located on the eastern side of the dairy, which wheel powered a forge, a grist mill, and a crushing and a stamping mill. Of these structures, only the crushing and stamping mills are extant, which were remodeled by the Hewits as the stable (#5) and dairy (#4) in the latter half of the 19th century. To the north at the furnace site is the millpond, which was originally dammed by Hasenclever and later repaired by Erskine. Beyond the dam, five hundred yards north of the furnace, Hasenclever constructed a second forge, and next to it, a sawmill. The raceway at this site (#7) is still apparent, although the structures are not standing. There were two other forges erected at this time by Hasenclever, one a half mile south of the furnace and the other two miles down river. These sites are unknown. Hasenclever also provided all the necessary workshops and housing for his workmen, as well as a house for himself. Of these buildings, none is known to remain, except perhaps for the red frame building (#2) located near the old gate, west of the house. The one-and-a-half story gable-roofed house is believed to be the oldest on the Ringwood property, although its date of construction is unknown. Other extant structures, aside from the manor house, which date from Ringwood's active iron-producing years, 1764-circa 1853, are: the blacksmith's shop (#3), a square, one-story rubblestone building, believed to be pre-Revolutionary, which stands south of the house, across the cooling beds, with a steeply-pitched shingled gable roof, and the manager's house, formerly located on the front lawn and now situated at the east end of the manor house. The one-and-a-half story structure was moved and converted into a laundry and servants' quarters, during the Hewitts' occupancy. One building of the historic period not directly associated with the iron works is a one-and-a-half story white stone farmhouse which is located 300 yards northwest of the manor house. This house may date from Hasenclever's expansions.

Ringwood Manor (#1) is a 78-room, rambling structure composed of a number of separate buildings which were collected and connected under a single roof. The nucleus is the west end of the house, which is believed to have been

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1739, 1764, 1771, 1807, BUILDER/ARCHITECT  
1853-1887

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ringwood Manor, Passaic County, New Jersey, served for one hundred and fifty years as the seat of one of America's most important iron-producing complexes. Nestled within the ore-laden mountains of north-central New Jersey, the first charcoal iron furnace at Ringwood was established in 1739. In 1764, under the aegis of the English-based American Company, the Ringwood works were enlarged and modernized, and additional ironworks were established nearby at Long Pond, and Charlotteburg, thereby making Ringwood one of the largest industrial undertakings in the colonies. Despite economic vicissitudes, Ringwood continued to be a prominent iron producer into 19th century, when it was associated with the two prominent iron manufacturers, Martin Ryerson and Abram Hewitt. The Ringwood Company was forced to cease iron production in the wake of the 1873 panics, although the nearby mines continued to be worked for iron ore, into the 1930's.

The principal remaining features associated with iron manufacturing at Ringwood are Ringwood Manor and the Long Pond Ironworks. The manorhouse, a rambling brick and wood structure, built in successive stages by Ryerson and Hewitt, is presently maintained by the State of New Jersey in Ringwood Manor State Park. The Long Pond works include the remains of various furnaces and associated structures, as well as intact residences, all within the Ringwood State Park Recreation Region. Only archeological evidences remain of the additional ironworks.

## HISTORY

Iron manufacturing began at Ringwood in an important fashion in the early 1740's. A forge, apparently erected in 1739, was the first iron works on the site, but it was soon superseded by an iron furnace. Colonel Josiah Ogden and family, of Newark, New Jersey, purchased the forge and sixteen acres of land in 1740 for £ 63. The next year they established the Ringwood Company and in 1742 built a furnace. Using ore mined in the area, the company prospered for the next twenty years. Then in March, 1764, the Ogdens offered the company's land and improvements for sale. Included in the sale were an iron furnace, two forges, several workers' houses, a saw mill, iron mines, and additional appurtenances. On July 5, 1764, a purchaser bought the preceding for £5,000.

The Ringwood works now became the center of an amazing industrial undertaking. In England, Peter Hasenclever, a Prussian who had moved to England in 1763, had spurred the formation of the American Company. The concern's purpose was to

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

J. Leander Bishop, A History of American Manufactures, 2 vols. (Philadelphia, 1864).  
 Charles S. Boyer, Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey (Philadelphia, 1931).  
 S. Sydney Bradford, "Ringwood Manor," National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form 10-317, January 23, 1967.  
 Alden T. Cottrell, The Story of Ringwood Manor (6th ed., Trenton, 1954).  
 Allan Nevins, Abram S. Hewitt (New York, 1935).  
 James Ransom, Vanishing Ironworks of the Ramapos (Rutgers Press, Camden, n.d.).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 724 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES Parcel #1

A	1 8	5 6 4 3 7 0	4 5 5 6 0 0 0	B	1 8	5 6 2 2 8 0	4 5 5 3 3 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 8	5 6 1 2 8 0	4 5 5 4 0 0 0	D	1 8	5 6 2 6 9 0	4 5 5 6 0 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The National Historic Landmark is contained within two separate parcels, the first at Ringwood Manor, and the second at the site of the Long Pond works, at Hewitt.

Parcel #1: (579 acres)

The boundaries of the Ringwood Manor landmark parcel are coterminus with the 1975 Ringwood Manor State Park boundaries. Beginning at the intersection of the western curb of Sloatsburg Road and the New Jersey/New York border line, proceed south along

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

8/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L. Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Designated: Nov. 13, 1966

date

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Boundary Certified: George Feeney

TITLE

DATE Dec 15, 1978

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/20/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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built by Martin Ryerson in 1810. This two-and-a-half story house was originally clapboarded, and is built of brick and wood, near the site of Hasenclever's house, which was either burned during the Revolution or torn down by Ryerson. Ryerson secured the interior woodwork from New York, and the fireplace tiles from Europe. The late Erskine Hewitt, the last private occupant of Ringwood Manor, records that the present doorway of this portion is the original of 1810. The gradual accretion of additions began during Peter Cooper's occupancy circa 1853. Nearby buildings were moved and attached on the east end of the house, and this practice was continued by the Hewitts. Mrs. Abram Hewitt was responsible for removing the clapboarding and covering the assemblage with white cement. A single roof was added as well, to unify the disparate elements. Various external features were added, such as the port cochere on the south side of the house, designed by Stanford White, and the glass piazza on the west end of the house, which was moved to Ringwood from Cooper Union in New York. The interior of the house reflects the various styles which its owners appreciated, from Colonial, through the Empire period and the Gothic revival. With the exception of the east end of the house, Ringwood Manor is maintained as a house museum, and the rooms are furnished in period styles. The east end, which housed primarily service facilities, has been converted into office space for the park attendants.

The grounds immediately surrounding the manor are still landscaped with the many curiosities, objet d'art, and relics of the iron industry, which the Hewitts accumulated. In the formal garden on the north side of the house are scattered French and Italian statuary, and other relics, mainly from New York City, which include columns from the old New York Life Insurance Building and gates from the Astor House on 33rd Street. At the west end of the house is a sixty foot well dug by Robert Erskine and now mounted with a Venetian wellcurb and ironwork with lead buckets. There is also a lead fountain from Versailles. In front of the Manor is a row of elms (replaced in part) which were planted along the old Morristown-West Point road by Mrs. Ryerson, to celebrate the Treaty of Ghent. Among the iron artifacts which are assembled in front of the house are twenty-six links supposed to be from the Revolutionary chain across the Hudson at West Point, as well as a hammer and anvil from one of the original forges. Other gears and shafts and miscellaneous items are scattered around the grounds. There are further formal gardens up the hillside northeast of the house. Southwest of the house, on the bank of the lower millpond, is the Erskine cemetery, which includes the grave of Robert Erskine and many Revolutionary soldiers.

The whole of Ringwood Manor is contained within the Ringwood Manor State

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Park. (Parcel # 1 on U.S.G.S. map.)

The Long Pond Ironworks were established by Peter Hasenclever for the American Company in 1768. Built and operated by John Jacob Faesch on the Long Pond River (now Wanaque River), three miles west of Ringwood, at the present town of Hewitt, the plant consisted of a blast furnace and a forge of four fires and two hammers, one sawmill, two large coal houses, three frame houses, six log houses, one store house, one stable, and one blacksmith shop. The operations were powered by water pressure created by a dam erected at the river's outlet into Long Pond (Greenwood Lake). Sometime between 1776 and 1781 the Long Pond Works ceased operations and the materials were removed to Ringwood. In 1853, Long Pond reopened under the direction of Peter Cooper and Abram Hewitt. At this time, the Works were renovated, with the construction of a new furnace, as well as a sawmill, icehouse, frame ironmaster's house, and workers' residences. A third furnace was built at Long Pond in 1862, and in 1868 a Westman Kiln was constructed there as well. By 1872, Hewitt had decided that further renovations were necessary to increase efficiency and work was begun in that line. These renovations were halted by the Panic of 1873, and Long Pond continued to operate in the old manner until 1885, when all smelting ceased.

At Long Pond today, there are both above-surface and archeological remains of the ironworks from the Colonial era through the 19th century. Archeological excavations in 1963 uncovered the 1768 furnace foundations. The second furnace is partially collapsed and the third furnace (1862) has been struck by lightning and is also dilapidated. Of the other industrial structures, the Westman Kiln and the massive stone foundation for the 50' waterwheels are intact, the latter structure never having been used. The wooden waterwheels which were last used are also extant, although they are charred from a 1957 arson attempt.

In addition to the industrial plant, dwelling-houses of both eras have survived. From the colonial days, two stone houses have survived, one on the East Shore Road which is a private residence, and one on the Greenwood Lake Road which serves as the headquarters of the Northern Jersey Highlands Historical Society. The stone walls of the original store remain, as do the foundations of the "long house." From the 19th century operations, two frame houses, one of which served as the ironmaster's home, and a twin stone house are still extant, in habitable condition.

Aside from the standing structures, there are evidences of the foundations of several buildings, including a 19th century sawmill, several workers'

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cottages, an ice house, a toolshed, a blacksmith shop, and two school houses. It is likely that additional investigation will uncover further such remains.

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exploit America's iron ore resources. Authorized to expend £10 to £40,000 in developing the enterprise, Hasenclever, also known as the "Baron," landed in New York, in June, 1764. And it was certainly he who purchased the Ogden's Ringwood estate on July 5, 1764.

The Baron quickly implemented his grand design. He immediately repaired the works at Ringwood and was producing iron there by November, 1764. New houses sheltered workers, new canals carried water to the furnace and forges, and new roads, some blasted out of rock, led from the works to the mines. At the same time, Hasenclever acquired additional property. He purchased some 50,000 acres and began to construct ironworks at Pompton, Long Pond, and Charlottenburg. The furnace at the last named was built in 1767 and the one at Long Pond was in blast by 1768. He probably erected a furnace at Pompton, and all three new works had one or more forges. To operate these works, the promoter imported about 535 workers from Germany, some of whom ran away from the various ironworks. All of the preceding accomplishments required an expenditure of some \$250,000.

Finances finally defeated the Baron. Some iron was made and shipped to England, but the too-rapid expansion of the American Company dismayed Hasenclever's partners. Thus Hasenclever was sacked in 1769. Undaunted, the Baron returned to Germany and developed a successful linen manufacturing business in Silesia.

Hurt, but not mortally wounded, the American Company struggled on until overwhelmed by the American Revolution. John Jacob Faesch, who had been brought to America by the Baron, became the local manager. He remained so until 1771, although it is said that he managed his own interests better than those of his employers. Nevertheless, Faesch was an excellent ironmaster, and his association with Ringwood is of importance. In the summer of 1771 Faesch was supplanted by Robert Erskine, a Scot and a mathematician. Erskine did not let the company's failure to supply additional funds discourage him, and before sailing to America he visited and studied as many ironworks in Great Britain as he could. After arriving at Ringwood, he labored valiantly for the company. But with the outbreak of the American Revolution, Erskine sided with the United States. He eventually became George Washington's Geographer and Surveyor-General. The Scot failed to survive the war, dying on October 2, 1780. He was buried at Ringwood.

The ironmaster's mansion at Ringwood and the ironworks endured a difficult period after 1780, the estate undergoing a number of sales. Finally, a new purchaser appeared in 1807, and he revived the fortunes of the iron manufactory.



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Martin Ryerson, an ironmaster of long experience, bought Ringwood in 1807. He resumed the manufacture of Ringwood iron, which was carried on by his sons after his death. It was during this era that the original mansion and furnaces at Ringwood were demolished. In 1853, Peter Cooper, the great industrialist, purchased Ringwood from Ryerson's heirs. He paid \$100,000 for it and 22,000 acres of ground.

It was because of Cooper that Abram S. Hewitt, an outstanding ironmaster, became associated with Ringwood. Hewitt and Cooper's son, Edward, operated the Trenton Iron Works. When Hewitt foresaw the exhaustion of the ore supply for those works, he purchased Ringwood from Cooper in the same year that Cooper had bought the estate. Hewitt's main interest lay in the ore mines, not the estate's ironworks. The Hewitt and Cooper firm prospered in later years, especially because of its pioneering work in manufacturing steel ironworks, but by 1862, he had installed a new furnace at Long Pond and was producing high grade iron to meet increased, wartime demands. Despite increased production, costs at Ringwood were terribly high. Transportation costs, equipment repairs, wages, accidents, and so forth kept profits low. Furthermore, in 1668, Hewitt installed a Westman kiln at Long Pond, at a cost of \$10,000, for removing sulphur from the iron. Despite the initial success of the kiln, business remained poor, and following the Panic of 1873, production at Ringwood slumped and finally ceased by 1890. The iron mines continued to be worked until 1931.

Ringwood Manor was deeded to the State of New Jersey by the Hewitt family in 1936, and has since been converted into a museum, and recreational park. The Long Pond structures are now contained within the Ringwood State Park Recreation Region.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

said curb to its intersection with the northern curb of the second road on the west, proceed west along the northern curb to the first intersection, thence north-northwest 1000', thence west 1900', thence northeast in a straight line to the New Jersey/ New York border, thence east-southeast along the border to the point of origin. These boundaries enclose the manor and the associated outbuildings, as well as a portion of the land to the north, which has been preserved in its historic woodland setting.

Parcel #2: 145 acres

Beginning at the point of intersection of the northern curb of Greenwood Lake Road with the east bank of the Wanaque River, proceed west along said curb to its intersection with the eastern curb of East Shore Road, thence north along said eastern curb 5600' to the point where the 500' contour crosses the Wanaque River, thence east to the 500' contour, thence east and south, along the 500' contour on the east side of the river, to the southernmost point of that contour, thence south in a straight line to the east bank of the Wanaque River, and proceed south along said bank to the point of origin. These boundaries enclose the above and below surface remains of the Long Pond works as well as a portion of the river upon which the furnaces and forges were located.

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NE 18.558350.4556000  
SW 18.557480.4554000

SE 18.558350.4554000  
NW 18.557.30.4556000